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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Parliament to have the final word on Iraq - Hurriyet
Turkish troops getting ready for Iraq - Milliyet
Bush targets U.S. middle class voters - Sabah
U.S. troops missed Saddam again - Turkiye
Bombs on Mideast peace process - Milliyet
Suicide attacks hit Mideast peace - Sabah
Banking watchdog might confiscate Uzan assets - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS
Presidential approval for Iraq deployment - Radikal
'Hawkish' U.S. ambassador to Ankara - Cumhuriyet
U.S. applies pressure on UN for Iraq Decision - Yeni Safak
Iraqi Kurds want a federal system - Zaman
Israel violated cease-fire - Yeni Safak
Suicide for Mideast roadmap - Zaman
Denktas won't recognize Greek Cypriot passport for Turks -
Cumhuriyet
Prodi: Turkey's EU membership unlikely in near future -
Radikal

BRIEFING

Presidential summit for Iraqi peacekeeping: President Sezer discussed the Iraq stability force issue with Prime Minister Erdogan, Foreign Minister Gul, TGS Chief General Ozkok, and MFA officials at a summit meeting in Ankara on Tuesday. A presidential statement issued after the meeting said that parliament would adopt a final decision on the issue in line with Turkey's national interests. The statement did not specify the need for international consensus before deploying peacekeeping troops in Iraq. Dailies regard the summit as a compromise between the president, the government, and the military. The Iraq deployment issue will be discussed at the August 22 National Security Council (NSC) meeting before it is submitted to parliament in early September.

New U.S. Ambassador to Ankara: Papers view the assignment of the new U.S. Ambassador to Ankara as the first move in a scenario to introduce radical reforms in the region. "Zaman" writes that Ambassador Eric Edelman has witnessed the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, and the division of Czechoslovakia. Edelman is being portrayed as an influential figure in the reshaping of Turkey and the Middle East. Edelman, a 'hawk' of the U.S. Administration, is coming to Ankara when U.S.-Turkish relations are on a razor's edge, "Cumhuriyet" notes.

Turkey, TRNC customs union: Having signed an agreement for the free circulation of goods and services, Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) are about to implement a customs union, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Sub-commissions are working to harmonize Turkish and TRNC regulations. The new deal will have positive effects on TRNC tourism, exports, and citrus fruit production. However, TUSIAD, Turkey's influential businessmen's association, voiced disappointment about the agreement with the TRNC, predicting that it would cause suspicion in Europe

and delay Turkey's EU membership drive.

Uzans might be tried for irregularities: The Uzan family, blamed by Turkey's banking regulatory board (BDDK) for unregistered double accounts, the sale of non-existing bonds, and for draining the family-owned Imarbank, might have to stand trial following an investigation by the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor has launched a second investigation against the Uzans for money laundering, according to press reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION

- NATO in Afghanistan
- Iraq

"Afghanistan and NATO"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (8/13): "Things will go more smoothly now that NATO has assumed charge in Afghanistan. It will certainly help ISAF to function more efficiently and provide better results in easing the pain of the Afghan people. . Apart from the ISAF mission, however, Afghanistan is urgently in need of many other things, such as facilitating NGOs, measures to help the economy, and moves toward establishing a national army. NATO now has a brand-new mission in Afghanistan, which basically extends the Alliance's responsibilities outside of Europe for the first time. The core of the NATO mission is to secure peace and stability in all of Afghanistan. This will require ISAF to take on some additional duties, a step that should be taken as soon as possible."

"Turkish soldiers in Iraq, for what?"

Zafer Atay argued in the economic-political Dunya (8/13): "Turkey should think very carefully about the mission for Turkish troops and the area to which they are to be assigned. If Turkey sends its troops in the absence of a NATO or UN resolution, we should be prepared for some serious problems. . There is an armed resistance against the occupation force in Iraq. If Turkey is assigned to the Baghdad-Tikrit area, the country's 'hot spot,' our soldiers will be at risk as much as any American soldier. . There is an argument that says that Turkey cannot remain aloof to development in the restructuring of Iraq. This view has some truth in it, as Iraq plays an important role in Turkey's national political and economic interests. However, it remains to be seen whether the US will give us credible assurances about Turkey having a strong say in Iraq's restructuring? So far, US promises about the Turkmen have gone unfulfilled, as is the commitment to eliminate the PKK/KADEK threat. We must get tangible assurances from Washington rather than simply accept American reassurances not to worry about these problems."

DEUTSCH